



Peregrine
Falcons at PPL

Peregrine Falcons

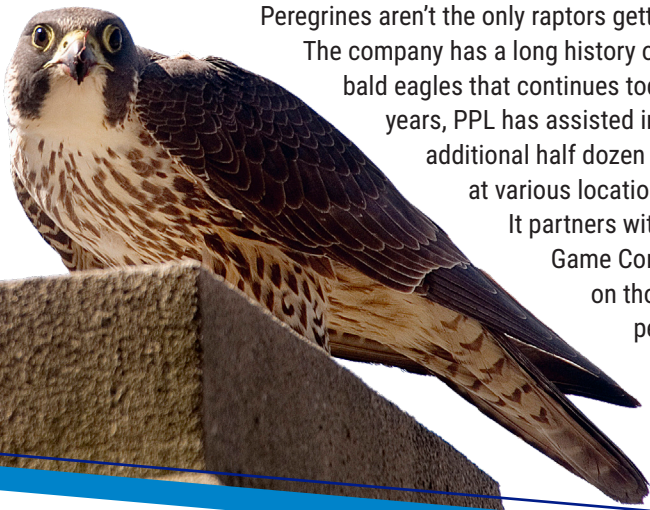
Peregrine falcons are mid-sized birds of prey, about 15 to 22 inches long, with a wingspan of more than three feet.

They are found on every continent except Antarctica and are the world's fastest bird, reaching speeds of about 200 mph in a dive! They average 60 mph in level flight.

Peregrines feed on other birds, catching them in mid-air. Their prey includes pigeons, blue jays, and other mid-sized song birds.

In Pennsylvania, peregrines are listed as endangered and are protected under the Game and Wildlife Code. They were removed from the federal Endangered Species List in 1999. Peregrine falcons were nearly wiped out in the eastern United States by the early 1960s, primarily due to the pesticide DDT.

PPL has had a long-standing involvement with efforts to restore the peregrine falcon population in Pennsylvania. In 1995, the company began its support of the Lehigh Valley Peregrine Project to release young peregrine falcons from the top its 322-foot headquarters building in downtown Allentown in the hope that the falcons would come back to the area. In the wild, falcons nest on high cliffs. In urban settings, tall buildings make a suitable alternative.



Peregrines aren't the only raptors getting help from PPL.

The company has a long history of supporting ospreys and bald eagles that continues today. Over the past two years, PPL has assisted in putting up about an additional half dozen osprey nesting platforms at various locations in its service territory.

It partners with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, and others, on those projects. Unlike peregrine falcons, ospreys feed almost exclusively on fish and nest near water.



Falcon Facts

- Baby peregrines are called eyasses and weigh about 1.5 ounces when they hatch.
- They eat a lot of food, doubling their weight in only six days. At three weeks, they are ten times their hatch size.
- They can live up to 15 years.
- Peregrines primarily eat other birds, including pigeons, flickers, jays and thrushes. They also eat bats.
- They're primarily monogamous, though when one member of a pair dies it is usually replaced.
- The peregrine falcon is a crow-sized bird, weighing just over two pounds. Female Peregrines can be up to a third larger than males.
- Peregrine falcons often hunt in tandem, alternately diving on their prey until it is caught.
- The use of the pesticide DDT decimated peregrine populations in the middle of the 20th century, but the population has rebounded thanks to conservation efforts.
- Eyasses usually start to fly in about 42 days. After fledging, they are still dependent on their parents for food until they learn to hunt, which takes about a month and a half.